

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim [[2]]

4, wherein:

in the communication mode, a software update is digitally transmitted from a connected external device into the medical device via the interface; and

in the measurement mode, analog signals are transmitted from a sensor into the medical device via the interface.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 of communicating with a medical device, in which an interface is provided to which either measurement means or an external device can be connected and via which measured signals or data are transmitted from the measurement means or the external device to the medical device:

wherein the interface operates in a measurement mode when measurement means are connected and in a communication mode when an external device is connected;

wherein a changeover between measurement mode and communication mode is effected automatically depending on whether the measurement means or an the external device are or is connected to the interface.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method as claimed in claim 4,
wherein the automatic changeover is effected by means of software of the medical device, a switch at the interface or electronically by an operating mode circuit in the medical device.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, wherein the interface comprises contacts which can be used both in the measurement mode and in the communication mode.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein all contacts required for the communication mode can also be used in the measurement mode.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for communicating with a medical device, which apparatus comprises an interface that is designed such that ~~either each an analog measurement means or and, an a digital~~ external device can be connected to ~~it~~ said interface one at a time and ~~analog measured signals or data can be transmitted~~ from the analog measurement means or can be received via said interface when the analog measuring means is connected to said interface and digital data can be transferred via said interface when the digital external device to the medical device via it is connected with said interface.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 ~~or a medical device as claimed in claim 9~~, wherein the interface is ~~designed~~ configured such that it operates in a measurement mode when measurement means are connected and in a communication mode when an external device is connected.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 10~~ or a the medical device as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 16, wherein the interface is ~~designed~~ configured such that in the communication mode a software update can be transmitted from a connected external device into the medical device via the interface.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The apparatus or a medical device as claimed in claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein the interface is ~~designed~~ configured such that a

changeover between the measurement mode and the communication mode ~~can be~~ is effected automatically.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The apparatus or a medical device as claimed in claim 12, wherein software ~~of the medical device~~ is designed for implementing the ~~automatic~~ changeover automatically, or a switch at the interface or an operating mode circuit in the medical device is provided for ~~the automatic~~ causing the changeover automatically.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The apparatus ~~or a medical device~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8, wherein the interface comprises contacts which ~~can be~~ are used both in ~~the~~ a measurement mode and in ~~the~~ a communication mode.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The apparatus ~~or a medical device~~ as claimed in claim 14, wherein all contacts required for the communication mode ~~can~~ are also be used in the measurement mode.

16. (New) A medical device which receives analog data from sensors in a measurement mode and communicates digitally with a digital external device in a communication mode, the medical device comprising:

an interface including:

a set of contacts, the contacts being configured to receive (1) a plug connected by a lead to the analog sensor, and (2) a plug connected by a lead with the digital external device, the contacts being configured such that the contacts can only connect with one of the analog sensor plug and the digital external device plug at a time; and

a means for recognizing whether the contacts are connected with the analog sensor plug or with the digital external device plug and switching the interface between the measurement mode and the communication mode.

17. (New) The medical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the interface includes:

a switch which assumes one state in response to receiving the analog sensor plug and another state in response to receiving the digital external device plug.

18. (New) The medical device as claimed in claim 17, wherein one of the sensor plug and the external device plug engages a switch and the other has a recess such that it does not engage the switch.

19. (New) The medical device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the switch is magnetically actuated and one of the sensor plug and the external device plug includes a magnet.

20. (New) The medical device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the recognizing means includes:

a software routine that detects whether digital or analog data is received and which switches the interface into the communication mode when digital signals are received and into the measurement mode when analog signals are received.

21. (New) The medical device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the recognizing means measures electrical parameters of signals received by the interface means and switches between the measurement mode and the communication mode in response to the measured electrical parameters.